Group 1 – Tom, Alexis, Joyce, Chris

**Activity 2**

*“Conservative activists, though, have decried the new course, the teachers' framework and even the exam itself as rife with liberal themes and focusing on the negative aspects of U.S. history. Some have even likened it to ‘mind control’ engineered by the federal government.”*

Proponents of the state-developed AP test are concerned that excessively centralized standardized testing detracts from their freedom to develop a curriculum locally. They see social studies as an opportunity to foster the kind of citizenship that revolves around a strong shared identity and are therefore inclined to shy away from excessive controversy.

*“Mercer said the new exam and course framework ignore such American civil right icons as Martin Luther King Jr., Rosa Parks and Cesar Chavez, while sanitizing lessons on World War II. ‘In World War II there's no Holocaust, no liberation of concentration camps,’ he said.”*

Proponents of the national AP test are concerned that the Texan version unnecessarily shields students from controversial topics. To gloss over so many of the most conflict-ridden parts of history is to rob students of important opportunities to practice critical thinking and citizenship in a democratic society.

The federal vs. state conflict…

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| Texas state board | AP exam – nationwide |
| * Only state-mandated curriculum * Likened to “mind-control” engineered by the federal government * Ignores American civil rights icons like Martin Luther King, Jr., Rosa Parks, and Cesar Chavez * Sanitizes lessons on WWII | * The new exam as eliminating “a lot of minutia and nitpicking” details * Designed to be flexible enough to conform to curriculum standards in different states * Honors local control and the states those individual teachers to support what their states are asking * De-emphasizes memorization * Confidant that history courses in Texas can prepare students for the new AP test while also adhering to the state’s curriculum standards |